

PINK BOLLWORM PROGRAM – WEEKLY REPORT

36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COTTON GROWERS



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Pink Bollworm Activities

Palo Verde and Imperial Valleys:

Native pink bollworm catches remain very high in the Blythe/Palo Verde Valley area, the Imperial Valley, and in the "Highway Line" traps. Agricultural Pest Control Specialist, Jodi Brigman, and Agricultural Technician II, John Nelson, pulled bolls from the remaining target cotton fields this week. They also examined the incubation boxes where bolls from previous collections are held for emerging larvae. Bolls will be collected next week from "conventional" cotton fields and sent to the University of Arizona as part of the *Bt* resistance monitoring. Larvae from these bolls will be bio-assayed for resistance to *Bt* endotoxin.

San Joaquin Valley:

Thirty-seven (37) native pink bollworm moths were trapped this week, up from 23 last week. This brings the season total to 152. The high number of native captures is most likely due to two factors. One, we are currently in the peak of the third in-field generation and at the point in the season where there are overlapping generations. Secondly, a little over two weeks ago a native moth was trapped in the Mojave Desert trap line. Through past experiences, this typically indicates the likelihood of "blow-in" moths coming into the San Joaquin Valley (SVJ) from southern desert cotton growing regions in California, Arizona, and Mexico. There is only one week of trapping remaining, as all traps will be pulled from the cotton fields next week.

Program Supervisor, Jim Rudig, participated in University of California (UC) Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) and Cooperative Extension (UCCE) sponsored Conservation Tillage Seminars held in Tulare and Five Points. Researchers, SVJ growers, private industry partners, and State and County Agricultural officials presented experiences with reduced tillage production systems. Mr. Rudig discussed the provisions of the newly enacted Reduced Tillage Permit, which allows a modest relaxation of plowdown tillage requirements in selected (non-PBW find) areas of the SVJ. He stressed the permit requirements of shredding, notification to the local County Agricultural Commissioner, dislodging the cotton plant roots in a manner that prevents regrowth, monitoring, and the host-free period. The annual permit expires December 31, 2003. This allows UCCE, CDFA, USDA, growers and PBW Program scientists to monitor, evaluate, modify, and/or revoke the permit if necessary.

Sacramento Valley:

The traps are in place in the four cotton-growing counties and will be serviced and removed during the week of October 20 through October 25. Trap totals for these counties are as follows: Colusa County 52, Glenn County 20, Sutter County 14, and Yolo County 1.